श्री एस.एस. सुरजेवाला: आप आश्वासन तो दे दें। मंत्री जी कि.....

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: यह एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री तय करती है।

श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल: सर, एडीबल ऑयल का जो सवाल है इसमें एडीबल ऑयल मिलर्स लॉबी और उसमें बिजनिस करने वाले लोगों का बहुत वेस्टेड इन्टरेस्ट होता है। वह माल का स्टाक करके आर्टीफिशियल शार्टेज भी करते हैं। कभी-कभी प्रोडेक्शन कम होने से भी शार्टेज होती है लेकिन ज्यादातर सिचुएशन का फायदा उठाने का इस लॉबी का हमेशा प्रयत्न होता है। क्या उसको कंट्रोल करने के लिए सरकार ने कोई स्टेप्स लिए हैं, अगर लिए हैं तो क्या स्टेप्स लिए हैं?

सर, दूसरी बात है कि हम बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करके प्राइसेस को कंट्रोल करने का प्रयत्न करते हैं, लेकिन मंत्री जी जानते होंगे कि हमारा जो पीडीएस सिस्टम है इसमें भी कई लूपहोल्स हैं और फेयर प्राइसेज शाप पर जो माल आता है उसमें से थोड़े का डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन होता है और बाकी माल बैक डोर से ओपन मार्केट में चला जाता है। क्या हम पीडीएस सिस्टम को इम्प्रूव करने के लिए या उसकी एफिशियंसी बढ़ाने के लिए कुछ कर रहे हैं? आपने अभी तक क्या स्टेप्स लिए हैं और क्या लेना चाहते हैं?

सर, मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जब हम प्रेक्टीकली हर वर्ष यह मुश्किल फेस करते हैं कि एडीबल ऑयल की देश में कमी है और हमारे देश में फूड हेबिट्स ऐसी हैं कि हम एडीबल ऑयल के बिना काम नहीं चला सकते हैं, तो इस स्थिति में हम एडीबल ऑयल सीड्स को बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कोई निश्चित प्लान बना रहे हैं? क्या कोई स्पेशल एनकारेजमेंट सरकार ने दिया है या देना चाहती है?

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: निश्चित रूप से मैंने पूर्व में भी कहा था कि स्पेशल इंसेंटिव देने के बारे में है, चूंकि यह एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट से संबंधित है जो माननीय सदस्या की भावना है उस भावना को मैं कृषि मंत्रालय को प्राथमिकता के आधार पर पहुंचा दूंगा। जो प्रायोरिटी सरकार की है उसके सन्दर्भ में तो मैंने अभी आपको बताया ही था, जैसे अभी स्टोरेज कंट्रोल आर्डर, स्टाक की सीमा निर्धारित करने के बारे में, पीडीएस को स्ट्रीम लाइन करने के बारे में, इसको चुस्त-दूरूस्त करने के बारे में। चूंकि माननीय सदस्या ने पूछा है कि क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है तो इस सन्दर्भ में मेरा कहना है कि जो ब्लैक मार्केटिंग की जा रही है या इस तरह की हेराफेरी का काम है, डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन का काम है यह सम्पूर्ण रूप से राज्य सरकारों के अन्तर्गत आता है। इसलिए यदि माननीय सदस्या किसी खास जगह का कोई स्पेसिफिक मामला बताये, यदि इन आठ राज्यों से संबंधित हो तो हम उसे देखेंगे।.

श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जेठाभाई पटेल: गाइड लाइन्स तो आप दे सकते हैं?

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव: निश्चित रूप से मैं इसकी जांच करवाऊंगा।.

*124. [***The Questioner (Shri Gyan Ranjan) was absent. For answer vide Col. 31 infra.***]

NHRC's concern about Eradication of Manual Scavenging

*125. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has sought eradication of manual scavenging;

(b) details of the States practising scavenging; and

(c) the steps being taken in such States and assistance being given by the Ministry to them for its eradication?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Only Kerala and Pondicherry have been declared completely Scavenging free. In all other States problem of scavenging persists in some form.

(c) "The National scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their Dependents" was launched by the Government of India on 22nd March, 1992 with the objective of eliminating the inhuman practice of manual handling of night soil and filth. The main components of the scheme are :-

1. A rapid survey to identify scavengers and their dependents and their aptitute for alternative trades.
2. Training of Scavengers and their Dependents.
3. Rehabilitation through implemenation of projects with a prescribed funding pattern.

In addition, the programme for conversion of dry latrines is also implemented by the Government through local bodies under the Urban Development Ministry. Grant released under the National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers is shown in Annexure. [*See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 19*]

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, it is, however, a very sorry, if not shameful, state of affairs in our country. Though, we are celebrating the 50th year of our independence, it is really very sad that a section of our people still remain in absolute degradation, if there is anything called human dignity. The gravity of the matter has been underlined by the fact that our National Human Rights Commission sought its immediate eradication quite some time ago but nothing very tangible and very heartening has come so far. I am constrained to submit that all tall claims of our achievements in the field of activity look hollow when viewed in the context of this in human practice in our country. All our talk of equality is reduced to hypocrisy in the context of this particular thing known as 'manual scavenging'. I want to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether he would ensure that a full stop is put to this inhuman practice positively before 14th of August, 1997, which is the Golden Jubilee Year of our independence and, if not, the reasons therefor.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, from 1991-92 to 1996-97 - in the Eighth Five Year Plan - we have identified 8,25,000 persons who were involved in manual scavenging. As I have already told you earlier, during these five years were have adopted two components - imparting training and rehabilitation. We have, so far, succeeded in rehabilitation of 1,25,000 persons. So, now, we are adopting different other schemes. For instance, in the rehabilitation there was a problem that the banks were not granting loans to the persons from the families who are in this occupation of scavenging. That is why, in the present Budget for the year 1997-98, we have kept Rs. 10 crores and we are very shortly going to set up a Safai Karmchari Financial [illegible] we do our best but which we could not achieve our targets. But, Sir, as I told you, we are hopeful that with the financial institution and with the help of other measures, we will speed up our work. But, I cannot say that we will bring an end to this scavenging by the people by the Ninth Five Year Plan.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Sir, is it not true that in some States, including mine, i.e. Assam, nothing was spent for three years? Is it not true that nothing was spent in the States of Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Delhi, Nagaland and Meghalaya? It is rather very shocking that the National Capital Territory of Delhi is also not free from this utterly degrading practice. The fact that only Kerala and Pondicherry are from this inhuman practice tells a tale of its own. Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he would give us a categorical assurance that far more effective steps would be taken to totally eradicate this manual scavenging and that too within a certain time-frame? If not, what are the difficulties?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, as the hon. Member pointed out, Assam and some other States did not get any funds during the period 1993-94 - 1996-97. But we are not at fault. The Government of India, our Ministry, had been allocating funds for the purpose of eradication of this manual scavenging. Sir, we give funds through the State Scheduled Caste Development Corporations. The funds are given if proposals come. Therefore, I would ask the hon. Member to check up with his State Government. They have not sent any proposal. We give money only when a proposal comes.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: I will find out from my State. But what about the other States? Is it not the responsibility of the Minister? Then, what about my most important second supplementary? Are you prepared to give us a time-frame in regard to the total eradication of this problem?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: As I told you, Sir, the problem is multidimensional. For instance, there are reports that when the menfolk were [illegible] take up oth r

occupations, the women folk, in order to double the income, in order to supplement the income, started engaging themselves in this occupation. The point is, I cannot give a time-frame. As I pointed out earlier, we have spent Rs. 435 crores during the last five years for this purpose. The point is, if we get any proposal, we will certainly clear the proposal because we have enough funds with us.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कटारिया: चेयरमैन साहब, मैं आपका बहुत शुक्रगुजार हूं। वजीर साहब ने जो फिगर्स दी हैं उनके अनुसार सिर्फ दो स्टेट्स में गंदगी सर पर उठाने वाला काम पूरा हुआ है।

†[ ]

It is very unfortunate. The measures which have been taken by the Government - the Centre as well as the States - are only cosmetic. They cannot solve this deeprooted problem. It is a most undignified practice. It is shocking that when the whole world is marching into the Twenty-first Century, India is still under the yoke of this problem. It is not just a few persons. Lakhs and lakhs of people in this country are doing this in human job.

Therefore, may I know from the hon. Minister what actual and effective steps are being taken by the Government? You cannot take refuge under the statement that the State Governments are not sending any proposals for the eradication of this problem. You cannot take the excuse that the State Government are not asking for funds. The question is: are you fixing a time-frame? Are you devising any methods by which you can help these unfortunate people so that they can get out of this yoke? Are you fixing any time-frame for the eradication of this unhealthy and in human practice amongst our people?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, through you I assure the House that I am not passing on the responsibility to the States or somebody else. The point is, I am just taking the House into confidence and saying that the problem is very actute and, as he has rightly pointed out, in this civilised age it is shameful that we still have a large segment of the population which is doing this inhuman work. The point is, as I told you earlier, we have already taken three steps: a survey was conducted, training was imparted and rehabilitation started. After that, we have constituted the Safai karamchari Commission, and that Commission is doing very well. We are also receiving instructions from the Parliamentary Committee for SC/ST, and I must say that the Parliamentary Committee is doing excellent work so far as this area of my Ministry is concerned. We have determined to put an end to the manual scavenging that is going on by the year 2002. This is our determination. How much we will succeed depends upon many things.

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: धन्यवाद, सभापति महोदय। महोदय, यह वर्ष आजादी के स्वर्ण जयंती वर्ष के रूप में मनाया जा रहा है, लेकिन यह बड़े दुख की बात है या कहना चाहिए कि बड़े शर्म की बात है कि सिर्फ दो राज्य - पांडिचेरी और केरल को छोड़कर पूरे देश में सिर पर मैला ढोने की घृणित और अमानवीय समस्या बनी हुई है। सरकार को इसे खत्म करने के लिए और देर नहीं करनी चाहिए।

महोदय, जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, कुछ स्वयंसेवी संस्थाएं इस दिशा में काम कर रही हैं और सरकार तथा विदेशी संस्थाओं की ओर से इन्हें अनुदान भी दिया जाता है। महोदय, यह बड़ी अच्छी बात है। अगर वह अच्छा काम कर रही है तो उन्हें प्रोत्साहन मिलना चाहिए, मगर साथ-ही-साथ हम जो अनुदान देते हैं या विदेशों से उन्हें अनुदान मिलता है, उस की मॉनीटरिंग भी होनी चाहिए। मैं जानना चाहता हूं सरकार से कि पिछले तीन वर्षों में जो स्वयंसेवी संस्थायें खासकर "सुलभ इंटरनेशनल" जो इस दिशा में काम कर रही है, सरकार से उन को क्या अनुदान दिया गया है और विदेशों से पिछले तीन वर्षों यानी 1994-95, 95-96 और 96-97 में कितना अनुदान मिला है? साथ-ही-साथ उनकी मॉनीटरिंग की क्या व्यवस्था है? वह संस्थाएं ठीक से काम कर रही हैं या नहीं कर रही है, यह जानकारी मैं मंत्री जी से चाहूंगा?

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया: सर, बहुत-सी जगह पर ही एन॰जी॰ओज॰ को स्थानीय डिस्ट्रिक्ट एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन

†[ ]Transliteration in Arabic Script

के साथ मॉनीटरिंग के लिए जोड़ते हैं और मेरे मंत्रालय में किसी भी एन०जी०ओज० को उतनी देर अनुदान नहीं दिया जाता जितनी देर उस का केस स्टेट गवर्नमैंट से रिकमंड न हो। तो हम मॉनीटरिंग के लिए स्टेट गवर्नमैंट और डिस्ट्रिक्ट मशीनरी पर निर्भर करते हैं। वैसे हम ने अपने तौर पर अपने मंत्रालय में एक "कमेटी ऑन एन०जी०ओज०" का गठन किया है ताकि वह कमेटी यह देखे कि किसी को गलत पैसा तो नहीं चला गया।

दूसरे आप ने "सुलभ" के बारे में कहा है। आप ने 1993-94, 94-95 और 95-96 तीन वर्ष.....

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: 5 वर्ष का।

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया: 5 वर्ष का हिसाब मांगा है। महोदय, अभी मेरे पास आंकड़े नहीं है, "सुलभ" के बारे में वह आंकड़े मैं बाद में बता दूंगा।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: मैंने सभी एन०जी०ओज० और विशेषकर "सुलभ इंटरनेशनल" के बारे में कहा है।

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया: आप ने सभी को कहा। अभी मेरे पास उस का ब्यौरा नहीं है, मैं बाद में दे दूंगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Incidentally, may I just say something?

Will the Minister study how these two Staes managed to do this miracle and whether we can replicate the same method?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Yes, Sir, I have done it. The immediate study shows that what has been done is that these two States took keen interest in it and made the best use of our funds for the purpose.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I want to know whether there is some method by which we identify how many people are engaged in a job of this kind which is below human dignity. Secondly, what is the alternate employment for which the Government is proposing to educate and qualify these people? There is no point in taking them out of their present occupation and then leaving them to starve. I want to know whether the Government has a concrete proposal or an alternate method which it is going to apply to this section of people.

I also want to say that the States which are claiming such a high figure, may not be relatively right or correct. So, I want the Minister to go into it in great depth and find out how they have done this, what methods they have applied to identify and withdraw the people from this job and then to rehabilitate them in another job. That is the crucial point.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, as you have directed me, the same direction has been repeated by the hon. Member. I will certainly go into it.

The hon. Member also wants to know what is being done. As I have earlier informed the House, we have identified the persons who are scavengers. Their number is 8,25,572.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: All over the country?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: All over the country.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: How can it be?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: This is the figure which has been collected.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: All those who are engaged in scavenging all over the country cannot 8 lakhs. They should be much more.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Very much more.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: This practice is in vogue everywhere except Kerala and Pondicherry.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: If the hon. Member has some other data, I will accept that. This is the data with me.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: It is very unfortunate that he wants us to do scavenging. It is for him to do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is doing it.

SHRI BALWNAT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Secondly, the hon. Member asked what the Ministry was doing. As I told you, first we identify them. Then, training is imparted to them.

Sir, with your permission, I want to correct my statement. Perhaps, I read, "One lakh rehabilitated." Actually, one lakh persons were trained, and 2,50,000 were rehabilitated. You

may ask why the number of persons rehabilitated is much more than that of trained, why 2,50,000 persons were rehabilitated and one lakh persons were trained.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Rehabilitated in what? Placed on what jobs? Where were they rehabilitated? That is the question.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIAH: Sir, we leave it to them to choose their profession. They want to put up some vegetable....

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: You must have some information about the specific occupations or professions. Where have they been rehabilitated? That is the problem.

Mr. Hanumanthappa is not here. His Commission has given a report. He himself gave a statement last year, giving all these details about the formal and customary approach of the Government and lack of coordination.

You are throwing this responsibility on the earlier Government. You said that your responsibility began only in July and that for the last few years before that no money was given by the Congress Government. It is for them to decide about it. This is what the Minister has said, that for removal or elimination of scavenging no money was given to most of the States by the earlier Government. It is for them to ask about it.

I want to know what concrete steps this Government has taken.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Chaturvedi, don't put some words in my mouth, which I have not uttered. I have not said that.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: He did not use that word, but he said that his responsibility was from this year.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: When did I say that? I did not say that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not say it. Some other Minister, in answer to some other question, said it. This Minister did not say that in reply to his question.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Mr. Chaturvedi is talking of the same Government of which he was the Home Secretary.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: I am asking of the Minister about the continuing responsibility. When Mr. Parag Chaliha asked why no money was given to the States, this Minister said that he was not accountable for it.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: No, no.

Sir, the previous Government spent Rs. 435 crores.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we come from the States. You have rightly pointed out that the particular methodology adopted in Kerala for eradicating the evil of scavenging should be circulated to us. That would be very good and would enable us to impress upon our State Governments to adopt this particular methodology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

राज्य व्यापार निगम में भ्रष्टाचार के मामले

*121. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम में हुए भ्रष्टाचार के कतिपय मामलों की सरकार को जानकारी मिली है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक मामले का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) सरकार ने प्रत्येक मामले में क्या कार्यवाही की है और उसका क्या परिणाम निकला;

(घ) क्या राज्य व्यापार निगम के कुछ मार्केट मैनेजरों (विपणन अधिकारियों) द्वारा दिल्ली की निर्यात कम्पनियों से सांठगांठ करके करोड़ों रुपये के निर्यात आर्डरों का गोलमाल करके सरकारी खजाने को नुकसान पहुंचाया जा रहा है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उपर्युक्त दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री भोला चुल्ली रमैया): (क) से (ग) जी, हां। पिछले पांच वर्षों के